[26th August 1925

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the Government officials in Malabar are carrying on vigorous propaganda to induce the families of these prisoners to accompany them to the Andamans;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that a number of these prisoners are to be taken to Malabar shortly to persuade their families to accompany them;

(*h*) whether a batch of Mappilla prisoners have been brought to Madras to be embarked to Andamans;

(*i*) how many Mappilla free women and children have up till now been sent to the Andamans; and

(*j*) whether Government have received any report about their condition in Andamans?

A.—(*a*) Two hundred and seventy-eight Mappilla prisoners in the Alipuram Jail have agreed to proceed to the Andamans with their families. None have been *persuaded* to migrate.

(*b*) Two hundred and seventy-eight; none of them have gone to the Andamans yet.

(*c*) One convict with the members of his family—four in all—will sail shortly.

(*d*) Most of the prisoners are related to or friends of prisoners already in the Andamans who have settled down as self-supporters. These convicts prefer to settle down with their families in the Andamans more or less like free men on holdings of their own in villages composed of Mappillas or on forest or other work.

(*e*) The Government do not do any propaganda work in this respect. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the supplementary answers to question No. 653 given by the hon. Sir Arthur Knapp at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 26th March 1925 which give information which the hon. Member seeks and in which reference is made *inter alia* to the views expressed by the Indian Jails Committee on conditions that were found in 1919.

(*f*) No. Facilities are given to the convict to ascertain the wishes of the members of their families about settling down in the Andamans.

(*g*) There is no such proposal.

(*h*) Yes.

(*i*) The number of women and children who belong to the families of convicts already in the Andamans and who have proceeded to join them in the years 1923 to 1925 is about 500.

(*j*) Yes; the Government have received a report on conditions in the Andamans. The hon. Member's attention is invited to two notes by Major Barker which are being placed on the table.

Criminal Justice.

Free fishing in the Bhavani river.

*443 *Q.*—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that free fishing is prohibited by the Fisheries Inspector of Nilgiris in the Bhavani river flowing through the Attapadi valley in Malabar where the river is admittedly a private property; if so, under what authority it is done;

(b) whether some of the ryots living there were recently prosecuted for the offence of fishing and fined;

(c) whether Attapadi in Malabar is within the territorial jurisdiction of the Sub-Magistrate of Palghat: if so, why they were prosecuted before the Sub-Magistrate of Avanashi in Coimbatore district; and

(d) whether Government have framed the rules contemplated in the Nilgiris Games Prevention Act II of 1879 and whether they are for sale?

A.—(a) Fishing in the waters referred to is regulated by the Nilgiri Fishing Rules published at pages 1429–30 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 11th August 1925.

(b) The Government understand that one man was recently prosecuted for fishing at Vellamari and that he was acquitted.

(c) Yes; but offences committed in this area against the rules are triable by the Deputy Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate, Mettupalayam, who has been specially appointed a Magistrate of the second class for the purpose. The Government understand that the case against the man referred to in clause (b) was transferred to the Taluk Second Class Magistrate of Avanashi.

(d) The Nilgiri Fishing Rules are published every year in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"With regard to (c), there is no answer to the question as to why that particular individual was prosecuted before the Sub-Magistrate of Avanashi?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"The case was transferred to Avanashi, though it was first filed before another magistrate."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Why was it transferred?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"They laboured under a mistake that as the Sub-Magistrate was not a second-class magistrate the case should be transferred. But the rules specifically say that the Sub-Magistrate of Mettupalayam has all the powers of a second class magistrate in so far as these cases are concerned."

Use of the word 'Parian' in Summons forms in Ambur Sub-Magistrate's Court.

* 444 *Q.*—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the word 'Parian' is used before the names of all Adi-Dravidas in writing while issuing summons to Adi-Dravidas to attend the Sub-Magistrate's Court at Ambur, North Arcot district; and

(b) if they have no information, whether they will be pleased to make inquiries into the matter?

A.—(a) The Government have no information.

(b) The attention of the District Magistrate will be drawn to hon. Member's statement.